GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3470
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
CENSUS - 2001
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have worked out the figures of census-2001;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the follow up steps proposed to be taken by the Government on various findings?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3470 due for answer on 11.12.2001.

a) Yes, Sir. The provisional results have been worked out.

b) The salient features of Provisional results of Census of India, 2001 are as follows:

At 00.00 hours of 1st March, 2001 the population of India stood at 1,027,015,247 comprising of 531,277,078 males and 495,738,169 females.

India added about 181 million persons between 1991-2001 and the percentage decadal growth declined from 23.86 during 1981-1991 to 21.34 during 1991-2001. Thus, India has registered a fall in its decadal growth rate by 2.52 percent points, which is the sharpest decline since independence. However, the average annual exponential growth during the decade 1991-2001 is 1.93 percent, which can still be considered to be high.

Sex ratio (the number of females per 1000 males) is 933 females per 1000 males, which is an improvement of 6 points over 927 recorded in 1991 Census. One of the significant finding is that the sex ratio of child population in age group 0-6 declined sharply from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001.

The literacy rates among the population seven years and above for the country stands at 65.38 percent. The corresponding figures for males and females are 75.85 and 54.16 percent respectively. In other words three-fourths of the male population and more than half of the female population in the country are literate today. India has continued its inexorable march in improving its literacy rate by recording a jump of 13.17 percentage points from 52.21 in 1991 to 65.38 in 2001. The decadal increase in literacy rates in males and females are in the order of 11.72 and 14.87 percentage points respectively.

c) The Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 in February, 2000. The immediate objective of the Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium term objective is to bring the total fertility rates to replacement level by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies. The long-term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

There are many social and economic reasons for declining sex ratio in the age group 0-6, the foremost among them being the practice of dowry, son preference and neglect of girl child. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is currently implementing Reproductive and Child Health Programme since 1997 for Mother and Child Care Services with special emphasis on quality of Primary Health Care and client satisfaction which is expected to help in the decline of the mortality of female child and the maternal mortality.

Besides, to discourage the practice of female foeticide the Government of India has enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States/UTs. The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provision of the Act.

The provisional results of Census 2001 have important implications for empowerment of women and the development of the children.

The Department of Women and Child Development is working with various social sector Ministries/ Departments/State Governments and other organizations for strengthening the existing programmes and designing new strategies for further carrying forward its mandate for the holistic development of women and children in the country.